

The Spelman Spotlight

Volume XLV

March 30, 2001

Spring Break Excursions 2001

-Finally! The sun is beginning to stake its claim in the sky as we delve into Spring. Check out the baddest stores to buy the hottest threads for Springtime.

See "Fresh and clean for Spring"

...page 5.

-She's friendly, intelligent, and beautiful! Welcome the new Dean of Chapel to Spelman College.

See "Spelman Welcomes"

...page 4.

-Exclusive interview with Jay-Z's girlfriend! Well not really, but Blaine Bercy dispels this rumor and talks about her life since becoming one of the co-hosts of Trackers.

See "Trackers co-host"

...page 7.

all this and more...

Inside

Jamaica, New York, ATLANTA...wherever

your Spring Break destination was the Spotlight hopes that you were able to lay back and chill. Aaaaah! the memories...check out the photos of seniors parlaying in the night, Jameta (or shall we say Stella?) in the Carribean, Rashida and crew in New York, Cynthia and her friends in Manhattan, and Jessica and her girls looking fly in the Bahamas!



Continuing Education Program provides opportunities

Kristina Swann
Campus & Local

Spelman's continuing education program provides education as well as training programs for students of various ages, educational, economic, and cultural backgrounds. Established over 20 years ago, the program consists of four major components, including the Gateway, Early College Summer, Quality First Customized Training, and Elderhostel programs.

Gateway, one of the most popular Continuing Education programs, caters to adult women returning to college to complete their undergraduate studies, and also offers an international academic program one week out of the year for students over the age of 55. The program also hosts a six-week, residential college preparatory program for prospective Spelman students in their junior year of high school.

The Continuing Education department also offers developmental resources to several organizations and its employees through Quality First Customized Training. This program provides on-site training for employees, as well as basic communication, team building, and conflict resolution skills.

Jamila Canady, interim director of the continuing education program, comments on the success and the expansion of this particular program. "We have been very successful in expanding in new and diverse areas, and acquired a three-year contract training employees from [the U.S. Department of] Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Welfare-To-Work, and Upward Mobility, throughout the United States."

The Continuing Education departments from Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Clark Atlanta University, and Morris Brown College have also developed partnerships with

Spelman's program. The Spelman continuing education program also holds a partnership with the school's education department, which includes 78 education majors and community student teachers.

Through workshops for the Black Arts Festival, the Spelman continuing education program offers training through the arts, as well as through modules via satellite. Canady comments on these opportunities as well as the benefits that the program provides for lifelong learning. "Lifelong learning is a process for every human being, which addresses a broad range of activities and events. This process should be significant and beneficial in every way."

There are over 50 students enrolled in the continuing education program. Theresa Ringo, a junior and continuing education student association president, discusses how she benefits from the department. "The department is

very helpful in assisting students with financial aid, [taking advantage of] learning resources on the campus, and [finding] outside career-oriented opportunities available to students. I would have not come this far without such great support from the staff that the program has to offer, along with the academic curriculum that the program entails."

In addition to more opportunities for returning undergraduate students through the department, there is the experience of social interaction with younger students. Catherine Orr, a psychology major, shares her experiences. "I have enjoyed my experience at Spelman and am so impressed with my young sisters' wisdom and knowledge. I have learned a great deal from my fellow sisters. My experience here at Spelman has been tremendously inspirational, and although awkward at first, during January 2000, I became comfortable and adjusted into classes and the

Spelman setting very well."

Spelman sophomore Jovana Joyner, who is enrolled in the traditional four-year program, shares her thoughts on members of the Continuing Education program. "I believe that the Continuing Education program here at Spelman College was a good idea and a program that has given the educational opportunity to those who were not able to complete undergraduate education upon matriculation from high school. The chance to fulfill that dream for whatever reason is most essential. I do believe that there definitely should be more involvement with the continuing education students and the traditional Spelman student body. Unless there is a class with both the traditional and continuing education students, there is a limited amount of interaction with students. It is important that we learn from their experiences that education is more than a choice."

Dear Sisters,

We hope that your spring break proved to be relaxing and fun! Congratulations to those Spelmanites who will participate in Honors Weekend. Let's keep the grades up and the hard work going.

Freshwomen: Don't forget your white dress and black shoes for Founder's Day, April 11, 2001.

**COMING SOON: THE
SPELMAN SPOTLIGHT
ONLINE!**

**The Spelman Spotlight
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Please mail all correspondence to:

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Announcements



Spelman Model Institutions for Excellence Program presents 13th Annual Science Day on Friday, March 30, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. More than 80 Spelman students will present their research projects in Spelman's new Science Center. The Model Institutions for Excellence Program (MIE), funded by NASA, will team up with Kimberly-Clark Corporation to sponsor the event. This year's theme, "**Science in the Liberal Arts: Opening Doors to Careers,**" will focus on possibilities for careers in the sciences. The venture is a group effort involving students, faculty and staff in the sciences, engineering and mathematics. For more information, contact **Dr. Kerri Burton-Danner at 404-221-2024.**



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. presents **RUSSELL SIMMONS AND KIMORA LEE SIMMONS SYMPOSIUM.** This event will take place on **APRIL 7TH 2001 @ 10:00 am** in Sister's Chapel. It is sponsored by Baranco Automotive group. Please arrive early. There will be free giveaways of products such as **Phat Farm clothing,** and, of course, the event will be lots of fun!



The **Environmental Task Force** will hold its annual **Environmental Awareness Week** the week of April 13. Each day will be full of environment related activities and information sessions. Keep your eyes peeled for flyers that signify the different kinds of activities that are going on for each day.



Atlanta-based, **Talented 10th Enterprises (TTE)** continues the pursuit of economic wealth and independence in the black community. **From March 30 through April 1, 2001, TTE will host its 4th Annual Entrepreneurial Conference, "Empowerment 2001: Achieving Wealth Through Business & Technology."** The seminar will be held at the Lauderhill Conference Center in Atlanta and the guest speaker is Michael Eric Dyson, one of the country's foremost Black intellectuals. **Student discounts** are available. For more information about this year's conference or TTE, go on line to **www.empoweredonline.com.**



The Spelman SSGA reminds all students to please **vote** on **Monday, April 2, 2001** in Upper Manley.



In honor of **Women's History Month,** the **Giwayen Mata Dance Troupe** will present "**Rising to Our Power**" on Saturday, March 31, 2001 at 2:00pm and 8:00pm, and Sunday, April 1, 2001 at 2:00 and 6:30. The performance will take place in the Baldwin Burroughs Theatre located in the Fine Arts Building at Spelman College. Tickets range from \$8-15 dollars. For **more information** contact the Women's Research and Resource Center at **404-681-3643 x2161.**



The Freshman class of the AUC presents "**Midnight Masquerade**" on Saturday, March 31, 2001 at the CAU Student Center from 9pm to 2am. Attire for the event is formal. The ticket prices are \$7 for a single and \$15 for a couple. **Tickets** may be purchased in the **Spelman SSGA office.**

Spelman S.G.A. takes initiative to improve dining services

SSGA Office

Would a debit card meal plan system optimize the Spelman dining experience? Would students be willing to pay more money for more meal plan options? How much money do Spelman students currently pay per meal? Not sure, maybe, and about \$2.20 are the respective answers to the above questions. These questions, among a host of others, have been under investigation by the Spelman Student Government Association's Food Advisory Committee. This committee's primary responsibility is to act as a liaison between the students and administration to voice student concerns about the campus dining services, as well as develop a plan of action to improve the services. Under the direction of co-chairs Tonya Fewell and Kathleen O'Quinn, the committee has utilized focus groups and surveys to identify student concerns about dining services and meal plan op-

tions. Based on responses, the committee has found that students are most concerned about safety of

food, food diversity for vegetarians, and healthier food selection choices. One student who wrote

nose, mouth. The gloves are obviously contaminated and [thus] so is the food that they serve to us." Another student voiced concern about the quality of food, stating that "it's more the lack of quality of food, not so much a lack of selection." Students would also like to see a debit card system to credit accounts when meals are not eaten, the length of cafeteria hours extended, and a change in the weekly menu.

In an effort to communicate the student's suggestions and dismay, the committee has had several conversations with Dean Hikes and the managerial staff of dining services who are quite responsive and open to the students' comments and suggestions. The committee has also proposed two new student meal plan option to the administration that would allow for students to have four different meal options or allow students to dine on a meal and point system. The first plan "Meal Option System" creates meal options based on the number of meals the student would eat in the cafeteria

each week. This system allows for students to choose from seven, eleven, fifteen, and nineteen meals per week. Freshman would be required to take the nineteen meals option while only commuter students would be allowed to choose the seven meals option. This system ranges in cost from \$3.25 to \$4.00 per meal. The second "Meal and Point System" would work similar to a debit system where each point on a student's card would be worth \$3.00. This system creates the option for the student to also use her points for guest's meals as well.

The Food Advisory Committee as well as administration and staff would like for students to know that changes such as the ones mentioned above take time and patience. The efforts that all have made are in the best interest of Spelman students. If you have any questions or comments or would like to be involved in improving dining services, you may visit the Student Government Association's office located in Lower Manley.



The disappointed look seen all too often on the faces of Spelman students when they resort to eating sandwiches.

appliances in the cafeteria, lack of customer-friendly service, soiled silverware, proper handling of

about the handling of food stated that "workers may wear gloves, but then they scratch their hair,

The Spelman P.O.S.S.E: Protecting our Spelman Sisters Everyday

Jennifer Smith Campus & Local editor

Safety is an issue that is always of concern to members of the Spelman college community. Compared to some larger institutions, Spelman is relatively safe, tucked away "behind the gates." Yet, students are cautioned by public safety and other campus officials to stay alert around campus, as well as in the West End and greater Atlanta community. The Spelman P.O.S.S.E — Protecting our Spelman Sisters Everyday — is a campus organization working towards increasing student safety.

Candice Young, one of the co-presidents of the Spelman P.O.S.S.E., discusses the organization's goals. "We want people to become more aware of the issues that affect college students, as well as be aware of their surroundings." She gives examples of some of the endeavors that the organization has planned and is planning for the future. "We've done self defense classes, as well as a presentation on date rape drugs, and alcohol. Last year, we participated in a banner contest that promoted drug awareness at Oglethorpe Elementary school," says Young. "We judged the contest, and hosted a pizza party for the winning students. We try to reach outside Spelman, and establish a reputation and a good relationship with the surrounding community."

Alex Hadley, the other co-

president of the Spelman P.O.S.S.E., discusses how she became involved with the organization. "My inspiration to join the Spelman P.O.S.S.E came after I talked with some of the public safety officers. One of them, A.J., was recruiting and he really hyped P.O.S.S.E up. This was in the spring of 1999, around the time that the organization was being started back up." She goes on fur-

two lighting audits, says Hadley. We lit many of the lights that weren't lit, and replaced those that needed to be replaced." P.O.S.S.E Vice President Andrea Sipe also comments on the lighting issue. "It's very important for us to know the concerns of students on campus," says Sipe. "This includes anything that will make the student body feel safer whether they live on campus or off campus. We

participate in these activities, please do them responsibly."

Although P.O.S.S.E. is not a highly publicized campus organization, it has existed for several years. Public Safety Director Steve Bowser, who has been very influential since the group's founding eight years ago, discusses its history. "The organization was instigated by a group of Spelman students who found out another Spelman student was working in the public safety office and became interested." Bowser also discussed some of the projects and issues that the founding members of P.O.S.S.E. targeted. One of the earliest projects was a skit where several members portrayed public safety officers, others students, and the two groups engaged in a dialogue discussing campus issues. "After the skit," says Bowser, "[members of the] administration and students were able to see each other's perspectives concerning a number of issues on campus." Bowser notes that "prior to P.O.S.S.E, there was no pick-up and drop off at your dorm." He recalls that "if a student went on a date, even if it was a cold and rainy night, they had to be dropped off at the gate by their date."

When asked about safety factors concerning the area behind Living Learning Center II residence hall, Bowser states, "There is a driveway behind LLCII that is used primarily for the the garbage truck. This gate may also be open if there is work taking place on this section of the campus." Yet,

Bowser says that students have many misconceptions about living in a gated community. "A gated community doesn't keep everyone out and it is not an absolute barrier." He also discusses some of the goals that the institution is striving towards in the area of safety. "We're moving the institution to a point where everyone sees and embraces a need for personal protection awareness as life skills, instead of simply responding to the latest incidents."

The members of P.O.S.S.E are playing a big part in helping to reach this goal within the Spelman community. Although there are currently only eight members, this is not a hindrance to the group. Hadley says, "We're small right now in number, but this is because we wanted to route ourselves. As a small group, we're able to perform little projects one at a time, and strengthen our communication with the Spelman Public Safety." Burton also comments on the advantages of the small group size. "I don't think smaller is a bad thing. I think that it just means precision and quality."

P.O.S.S.E. will be publicizing upcoming events, and encourages students to take an active role in protecting the community. Young says, "If you notice safety hazards [around campus] such as a door that doesn't close completely, a crack in the window . . . let people know. We really want to tackle whatever issues are pertinent to people's lives."

"A gated community doesn't keep everyone out and it is not an absolute barrier. We're moving the institution to a point where everyone sees and embraces a need for personal protection awareness as life skills, instead of simply responding to the latest incidents."

-Steve Bowser, Public Safety Director, commenting on the reality of public safety.

ther to discuss how the positions of co-presidents and vice president were filled. "Candice and I have been co-presidents of the organization since the beginning of this academic school year. In the spring of 2000, Candice, another member, myself and Andrea Sipe decided that we wanted to become more involved with the organization. As three of the organization's most consistent members, Young and Hadley took the positions of co-presidents, and Sipe the position of vice president.

Hadley also discussed the steps that the group took to improve student concerns over lighting on campus. "We conducted

want to include everyone in the student body."

Group member Carolyn Burton, discusses how she feels P.O.S.S.E is able to impact the Spelman community. "Although we are a small group on campus, we consider the entire Spelman family when we think about issues. These are also issues that we deal with as Spelman students, too" says Burton. When asked about some of the concerns that she feels are pressing within the college community, Burton talks about "the lack of responsibility concerning certain social issues, such as drinking, and smoking." Burton also feels that "if you're going to

Spelman College welcomes the new Dean of Chapel

Jameta Barlow
Health Editor

Meet Rev. Lisa D. Rhodes, Spelman's new Dean of Chapel. Rev. Rhodes is warm, spirited and energetic about serving the Spelman community. Here is some of what she has to say about spirituality, Spelman and just life in general.

How has your Spelman experience been thus far?

Wonderful, inspiring and fulfilled. Well, February 12 was my first day, and I have had an opportunity to see the many facets and dimensions of God's creation through women. I feel at home in this spiritual and academic haven that nurtures Spelman women.

What do you hope to accomplish at Spelman? What are your goals?

My vision exists on three levels. I hope to promote a strong sense of community among the staff, faculty and students that will transcend religious faiths and shows the interconnectedness of God in each other. In addition, I

want to see increased numbers for worship in the spiritual center, Sisters Chapel. Lastly, I want to increase Spelman's stature and presence in local and national dialogue of moral and ethical developments. This vision further allows the Spelman woman to be rooted in precepts that will accent their leadership.

What positions did you hold before coming to Spelman?

I served as one of three assistant pastors at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta from June 1995 until October 2000. I also served two historically black colleges and universities — Paine Theological Seminary, the oldest HBCU seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio, as director of planning and programs for two years and the Interdenominational Theological Seminary, the largest HBCU seminary in the world here in the AUC, as director of outreach and organizational development. Both positions allowed me to develop programs for bridging the gap between the church and academy. Also, I helped to increase visibility and awareness of how religious leaders need to be more proactive in the Black community in every-



Reverend Lisa Rhodes smiles as she candidly talks about her new position.

thing from educational reform to economics to social action agendas. Here at Spelman, there is already a lot of community service outreach. In the 21st century, religion further challenges us to bridge personal faith and responsibility.

What were some of your motivations for being in the ministry?

The Bible study I led at Ebenezer was a response to my assessment that there was a need for all women to share and gain strength. This is achieved by providing a framework rooted in faith, helping to identify with each other universally, and by defining and using their own inclusive language. Women still have some ways to go because we have internalized so much and we oppress

ourselves. I desire for women to have a stronger sisterhood and become more open and honest to share and create unity. This is an ideal, but it is the belief in God uniting us in spirit that can make this happen. Young women deal with cliques, peer groups, and division. Young women are hungry and ripe for sisterhood. They want to understand and define who they are as women. Young women look to older women with hunger and thirst to actualize their potential and you can't do that with oppression. This motivates me.

Is there a scripture, credo or any advice you would like to give the Spelman community?

I have a few. But I love 139 Psalm, talking about the inescapable God...God you have searched me...God knows who I am in all areas. Also, The Great Neighbor scripture — love the lord thy God with all thy heart and soul (and thy neighbor). Although there are a lot that I use, these are just some of my favorites.

So stop by the philosophy and religion department on the fourth floor of Cosby and give our new sister, Rev. Lisa Rhodes, a warm welcome.

What is your favorite thing about your vagina?

Jameta Barlow
Health editor

A few weeks ago, the campus was buzzing with this word. Spelmanites were asking, "What is 'The Vagina Monologues'?" Clark Atlanta, Morehouse, and Morris Brown students were inquiring, "Why can't men attend?" Students, faculty, and staff were wondering, "How can I get a ticket?"

Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" sold out in four days. Directed by Joan McCarty, "The Vagina Monologues" was presented to the Spelman College community on Feb. 12, 2001 in celebration of V-Day, or Vagina Day. The showing of the film was sponsored by the PEPers to benefit Angela's Fund, a charity for victims of child prostitution.

V-Day is a campaign to end sexual violence against women and to proclaim Valentine's Day as the day to celebrate women and demand the end of abuse. Inspired by the world premiere of "The Vagina Monologues" at HERE, an off-Broadway theater in New York City, the first V-Day was held in 1998 with a performance of the play by some of Hollywood's biggest celebrities—Glenn Close, Whoopi Goldberg, Susan Sarandon, Winona Ryder, Lily Tomlin, and Calista Flockhart.

V-Day 1998 happened only

in New York, but the V-Day 1999 College Initiative brought the issue of violence against women to 65 of the nation's campuses. Institutions such as Cornell, Brown and Syracuse universities, and

winning play. The Spelman production of "The Vagina Monologues" was sponsored by the Coalition to end Domestic Violence.

"The Vagina Monologues" was presented to an all-female au-

as "intelligent" and "courageous," "The Vagina Monologues," dives into the mystery, humor, pain, power, wisdom, outrage and excitement buried in women's experiences. Based on interviews with

to perform to great acclaim throughout the world—from Zagreb to Santa Barbara, from London to Seattle, from Jerusalem to Oklahoma City. Villard Books/Random House published "The Vagina Monologues" last February. The book includes a foreword by Gloria Steinem.

Many women admitted they greatly benefited from the message of taking ownership of the female body so as to prevent violence. Rev. Lisa Rhodes, dean of Sisters Chapel, said, "It's platforms such as 'The Vagina Monologues' that show women united among a common cause. Women in the audience felt at one, embracing their womanhood."

In addition, the cast felt they reached a higher level of consciousness, commenting on how much more comfortable they were with talking about vaginas and actually saying its name. Celia Robinson, a junior dual degree chemistry/chemical engineering major, served as chairperson for the PEPers committee and was also a member of the cast. "We bonded," said Robinson. "The women in the audience may have bonded also, but the cast had fun and was enlightened. It was a beautiful experience."

DID YOU KNOW?

Somewhere in America, a woman is raped every 2 minutes.



Middlebury, Bennington and Mount Holyoke colleges participated in the 1999 celebration. The V-Day 2000 College Initiative targeted 3000 schools, both in the United States and abroad, including Princeton, Emory and Harvard universities and Radcliffe, Mills and Agnes Scott colleges. Spelman was one of two historically black institutions to mount a performance of this Obie-award

dience, representing all ages and demographics. PEPers advisor and Director of Counseling Services Vanessa McAdams-Mahmoud felt that "women needed a place to go where they could talk amongst themselves about the vagina, absent of the male sexual gaze."

So, what are "The Vagina Monologues?" Hailed by The New York Times as "funny" and "poignant" and by the Daily News

a diverse group of hundreds of women—from a Long Island antiques dealer to a Bosnian refugee—"The Vagina Monologues" brazenly explores questions often pondered, but seldom asked: Do women like their vaginas? What do women call their vaginas? What can you tell about a woman by the way she moans when she is aroused? Ms. Ensler, who first performed the play, has continued

Fresh and clean for spring: Advice from Atl's fashion elite

Beth Perry
A & E Editor



Who thought plaform shoes and funky sunglasses would ever really go away? Find them at the Clothing Warehouse!

The Clothing Warehouse
1146 Euclid Ave.
(404) 524-5070

Remember how shocking it was to see a picture of your mother as a 20-year-old, wearing the exact same pair of platform shoes you saw on sale at Macy's last week for \$125? Fashion has a tendency to repeat itself after a few years, and this is exactly what The Clothing Warehouse is banking on. According to sales associate Erik Rozsa, "We focus on creating older fashions... '80s and '70s stuff is really hot right now."

The shop is jam-packed with retro-ish clothing, including jean skirts, dozens of colorful mock Prada and Gucci sunglasses, ripped and stone-washed Levi's jeans, and a variety of vintage T-shirts with several of our favorite childhood catch phrases pasted across the front. The store also boasts a limited edition Big E Line of clothes that are considered collector's items.

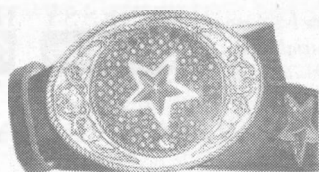
"No one has the same stuff as us," says Rozsa

The Sushi Clothing Company
424 Moreland Ave.
(404) 522-1010

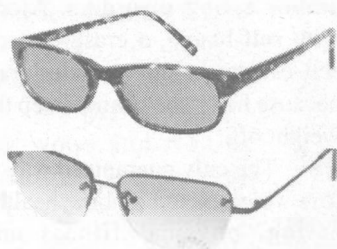
Sushi, Atlanta's premier designer Bill Hallman's latest endeavor, showcases tons of "girly" clothes and easily achieves its reputation for producing original, colorful, and affordable clothing. The store is decorated with an Asian motif, with dragons hanging from the ceilings, large plastic swordfish hanging from the walls, and short China doll dresses hanging from the sale racks.

With a style that sales associate Cindy Simon says is for those who are "over the whole 'boy' look," the store sells pants, long and short skirts, backless shirts, three-quarter length jackets, and the like. Sushi boasts a variety of vibrant, vivacious vehements varying from pink, orange, gold, red, and magenta, to navy blue, purple, black and gray. There are also funky floral and fruit patterns, sexy

synthetic snakeskin shirts, and glittery glamorous get-ups perfect for going out to clubs, on dates, or to cutting-edge events. Sushi has a modest collection of casual cotton cutoffs and clingy Capri pants in several soft pastel colors, which are perfect for either lounging around or looking cute on the way to class.



Accessories are the perfect way to accentuate any outfit!

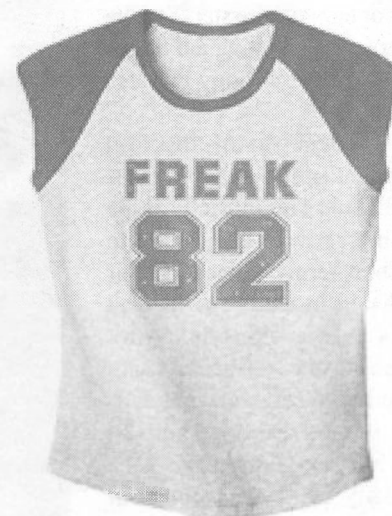


Tease
1166 Euclid Ave.
(404) 584-0220

Barely three weeks old, Tease has already become one of the hottest stores in Little Five Points. The name refers to the store's main product: T-shirts with catchy phrases printed on them and trendy stonewashed jeans. The owner Kim Coggins and her sister Jilene, owner of Envy, have marketed the store to young adults, making many of the shirts themselves and bringing some in from New York and Los Angeles.

Some of the phrases you'll find on the T-shirts include, "Don't Hate," "Your Boyfriend Likes Me," "Hucci," "Chocolate," and "Don't Be Skerd." Says Coggins, "It's cute, sexy, and tight. It's casual and comfortable, for the club or during the daytime."

And I know everyone is dying to have one of those baby T's with the slits in the back. Tease also does custom cutting designs in which they will snip, cut, trim, and tie the shirts however you want. Be sure to visit the store so that you can be one of the first to sport this growing trend.



T-Shirts with attitude are the best, and you can find a variety of them at Tease!

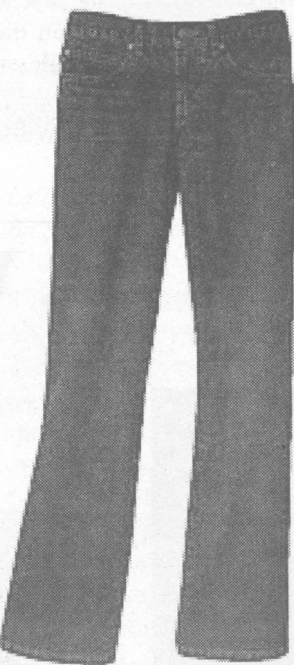
The Moda Clothing Company
1150 Euclid Ave.
(404) 584-6785

Moda has become infamous for dressing the neo-chic of the '90s. The store is full of funky colors and textures, featuring denim and vintage shirts, rhinestone and other jewel patterns, ethnic influences including gypsy beads, scarves, chiffons, camouflage and lycra. To sum it up, it's all over the place.

One reason for the extreme diversity and creativity in Moda's clothes is the store's designers who have pulled influences from all over the world, having worked in Canada, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and other cities.

The store has a large celebrity clientele, especially those from the music industry. The store also attracts clients from as far as Japan and Australia who have heard about the store, as well as the average young woman who wants to dress up for the night. Says design team member and manager Cuse Digi-Amo, "Our target market is women from 18 to 35, from college students looking for a video fashion look, to the woman at home who wants to grab something cute for the evening."

Moda has also opened a shoe store next door called Soho, which features shoes to complement each of Moda's outfits. Digi-Amo says that the designers have recently begun designing footwear as well so that Moda will have its own brand of shoes on sale in Soho by the summer.



Basic fashion rule 101: Hot, sleek, svelte balck pants are never out of style.

Envy
1143 Euclid Ave.
(404) 525-3689

Remember the Capri pants J.R. Ewing jokingly accused Spelman women of wearing three days out of each week? This is where we bought them.

Envy has a lot of denim, including tie-dyed or fringed Capris, two-toned skirts, ripped jeans, and both mini and knee-length jean skirts. They also sell colorful sleeveless shirts, custom rocker T-shirts, and hats on the casual side. The store carries sexy, full-length curve-hugging dresses, and backless shirts in comfortable fabrics as well as shiny metallic material perfect for turning a few heads at parties. You can also find shoes at the store, from strappy sandals and chunky heels to flashy boots and flats.

Some of the designers featured by the store are Bisou Bisou, Soda Blue, Luly K, Jordache, and the Envy name brand. Owner Jilene Coggins-Smith describes Envy's spring collection as "a throw back to the 80's: disco meets glam-rock. We'll be selling lots of tight little T-shirts with rhinestones, tight jeans, and rhinestone belts."



Halter dresses are the perfect way to go for spring!

Dieting again? Get the real truth about diets

Shauna Watkins
Health Writer

In this day and age, yo-yo dieting and fad diets are extremely popular. Everyone wants a fast and easy way to lose weight and look like his or her favorite star. Yet, the effects of yo-yo dieting are harmful not just to your body but also your mind.

Thought patterns that lead to self-sabotaging behavior causes yo-yo dieting. This unhealthy type of dieting provokes a person to make short term changes in their eating habits instead of permanent changes in their lifestyle. After diets don't work, you are left with a scarred mindset over your failure. A person cannot shed 30 pounds in 7 days, nor can they take a pill daily for 2 weeks without eating and expect to lose weight and remain healthy.

A lot of people who participate in fad diets forget that exercise is a vital part of losing pounds. If a person keeps cutting calories they will lose weight but without exercise to build muscle, the body's fat content will increase. Without exercising which in-

creases muscle, you will increase your fat count. Those who find success with their crash diet might lose weight, but as soon as they quit their diet they will most likely

prone to osteoporosis and damaged bones. When bones do not get their necessary nutrients, their content begins to break down and wear thin. Many crash dieters fail to re-

diets only lead to more fad diets that don't work and leave you depressed and heavier than you were when you began your quest to lose weight. Once a continuous crash diets fail to work the person begins to blame themselves. This self-blame can lead to depression and/or eating disorders. Along with self-blame, a crash dieter's self-esteem begins to deteriorate because he or she cannot keep the weight off.

The only guaranteed way to lose weight is to combine healthy eating, physical fitness and lifestyle changes. Nutritionists advise eating small meals every 3 to 4 hours throughout the day. Small meals keep you from eating more calories and help combat feeling full and tired. A physical fitness routine, such as 30 minutes to an hour of cardiovascular activity (running, jogging, cycling, etc.) 3 to 4 times a week along with weight training is also recommended. Whatever you do to lose weight do not starve yourself. Eating only one or two meals a day is harmful and unhealthy. If you go too long without eating your body begins to think it is starving and will begin to store up access body fat, which slows down your me-

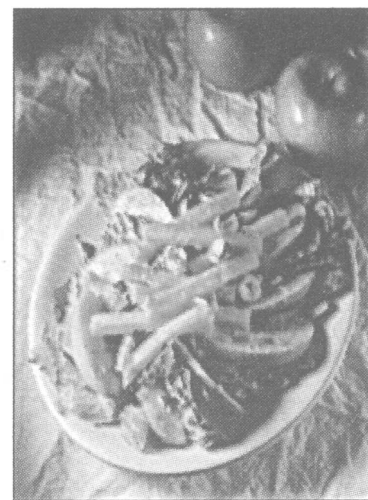


A sister gets her work-out on

gain their weight back as fat. After many fad diets, your metabolism will begin to slow down and it will be even easier to gain weight. In addition to effecting metabolism, fad dieters are more

alize the long-term physical effects of losing weight fast.

One of the biggest problems with crash diets are the psychological effects it leaves on dieters. Chronic dieting and different fad



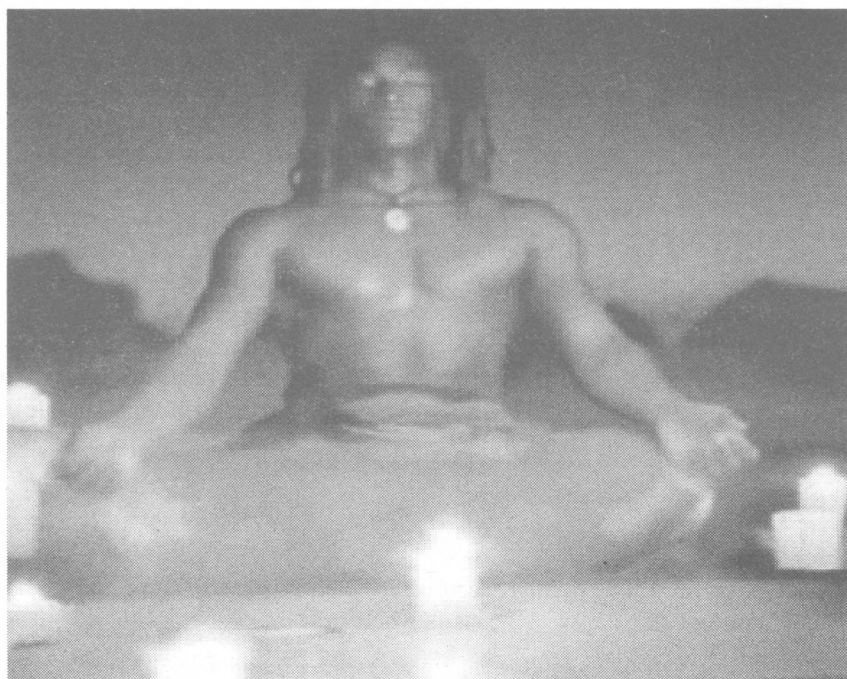
A dieter's best friend

tabolism and makes it harder to lose weight in the future. The next time you decide that you need to lose a few pounds fast develop an exercise routine or lessen your portions, but do not put yourself on a crash diet.

Warning signs that your diet program is unhealthy include: headache, light-headedness, feeling cold, thinning hair, constipation, fatigue, muscle cramps, kidney stones, and heart palpitations.

Meditation does the body good

Shauna Watkins
Health Writer



Meditation definitely benefits the mind, body, and spirit.

Meditation, from the Greek "to be mindful," involves creating a "state of being" in which all attention is taken away from the day's activities and the mind and body focus to relax. Allowing the individual to remove negative thoughts and feelings in order to create room for positive emotions, meditation is already a part of your everyday life. Whenever you concentrate so hard you lose your self in your activity, you're meditating, and you don't even realize it.

Studies have documented that meditation may lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and even reverse heart disease. A daily meditation schedule will relieve stress and does not require any special equipment or lots of time. The key to meditation is consistency. You should get into the practice of meditating around ten minutes a day or in small doses, like while walking, or waiting for your professor to begin class. Happy Mediation!

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Trackers co-host Blaine Bercy chats with the Spotlight

Jameta Barlow
Campus & Local

She's talkative, funny, caring, generous and honest. In fact, she is so caring, she once helped a mouse off of a glue trap. Meet Blaine Bercy, co-host of Trackers for Oprah Winfrey's cable network Oxygen. She was in Atlanta filming a few shows and I had a chance to spend some time with this pioneering and vibrant on-air personality. This 22-year-old is an inspiration to Spelmanites. She's our age, working hard doing what she loves and having fun while also making a difference in the lives of women. Did I mention she's only 22? Here is some of what she had to say.

How did you become an on-air host of Oxygen's television show Trackers?

A friend of mine, Khosi, another co-host was speaking at this event about images of women in the media where Oprah was in attendance. Khosi made a good impression and when Oxygen was looking for other co-hosts, Khosi gave them my name.

What is the overall goal of the show?

It's a release. We talk about what is on our minds as young women. We are all in that corporate age. We have fun. We like having a good time and acting silly. Sometimes you just need that when you come home from work or school. I'd like to think that we are fun and elevating.

What is your favorite aspect of the show?

The end. That's what no one gets to see. It's that off-camera time where we are just hanging out. I hate interviews but I love meeting people. I get nervous, just like everyone, when I do interviews. I have met a lot of friends that way. Sometimes we can't get them to leave.

What is your favorite television show?

It changes. I watch a lot of television, everything from PBS to the Simpsons to Jeopardy. I never

had cable growing up so now I stay up to 6 a.m. watching t.v.

What are your favorite arts and crafts?

Collage work. Anything related to collaging. Especially decopage, where you decorate with collages such as varnishing wood and making wallpaper. You can paint over it or even spray paint it.

I heard you have an eclectic taste of favorite celebrities, what is your favorite type of music or favorite cd?

I have everything. Garbage, Jay-Z, Ricky Martin, Christina Aguilera. Khosi is my roommate and people visit, thinking my music collection is a combination of ours, it isn't. I love hip-hop. I love Jay-Z, I have anything with Jay-Z on it—bootleg, backstage. My favorites are Any One and Reasonable Doubt.

What's your favorite movie?

Mafia movies—Goodfellas...I used to watch Scarface everyday, and that's a long movie. I like dark comedies too, like Scream and Jawbreaker. (After Scream came out on video,

around the show. Something is always going on. It's fun. I love going up to hair and makeup and just hanging out. Everyone is very welcoming. There are no doors on the offices, except the exec's office, but she keeps her door open at all times. Women primarily work there, except the crew is mostly men. Oz used to be downstairs. That was real cool. They are all nice. They used to call us the girls' Catholic school and we'd call them the boys' reform school. We act so silly.

What social issue, if there is one, are you most compassionate about?

I used to do non-profit back in LA. It changes. I am a little worried about welfare now that Bush is in office. But teen pregnancy has always been on my list of issues and concerns.

Is it hard to restrain yourself on-camera when dealing with issues you may be concerned about?

Crazy, everyone's desk is



The Spotlight catches up with Trackers co-host, Blaine Bercy, on Spelman's campus.

The media gets majorly diluted. Don't believe anything you hear on the news. You must be in a powerful position, like Oprah. It's not too hard for me. I can't get to preachy on-air, I have a producer over me.

How has your upbringing or background impacted your work?

I grew up in Los Angeles and attended junior college there and then ended up at Oxygen in New York. I had odd jobs—I used to help my mom with her bed and breakfast. This is my first job. I was adopted. I am Egyptian and Libyan by birth. My mom is Jewish and worked in civil rights. Her father is Russian. So nothing in my family was barred. I was never pressured. I just sort of found my way here. My mom stressed that—if it makes you happy, hey why not? She told me you could always change jobs. I had a unique upbringing, which gives me a unique outlook.

SC students have a hard time dealing with stress—how do you de-stress?

I can never plan to take a day off. I find myself spending the whole day thinking about what I should be doing. What helps me is to read more. I can't wipe it off. I just need something else to think about. Or I drive. I can't just sit and meditate. Hmm...maybe that's why I love crafts.

What is the hardest thing you ever had to do?

Moving away and leaving all my friends and family. I had to take that leap of faith and do something I had no idea how to do. I knew it was an excellent opportunity and only an idiot would pass up. I had to trust. That was hard.

Do you have any regrets in life?

I regret I didn't value high school. I was rushing it all. I want to go back. It was the best time. It's where you can buckle down and figure it all out, cherishing each day. College was great though. That's where I learned how to h-u-s-t-l-e grades and extensions. But really, that's where I learned how to communicate with others. In college, you have to interact with others who are going through the same stuff so you

learn how to tolerate others.

Are you seeing anyone?

Jay-Z, nah I'm just kidding. I met him though. I'm single, and loving it.

What are your future plans?

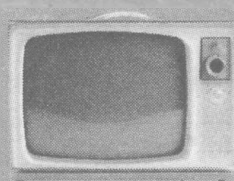
TV is cool. It's for me. It's not easy, but it's fun. I am definitely going back to school for psychology. I've learned more in the last year and a half than what I learned in school. Now, I watch tv so critically.

Describe yourself in one word.

The one word does not exist. I am everything and some things. (After much deliberation, Blaine found a word). I got it. Honest, brutally honest.

Any other comments?

Does anyone need a roommate? I love Atlanta, I wanna move here.



TV GUIDE

TRACKERS • Interactive television for young women that isn't afraid of what girls are really made of. Girls converse on TV and on the Web to motivate each other and make inspired choices about what to plan, what to watch, and what to do—with out all that sugar and spice. So, whether you're passionate about politics, fired up about sports, or just in need of a little support, come to the place that sees the world from a girl's point of view.

Courtesy of
www.oxygen.com

Come join the hosts of **Trackers**, Blaine Bercy, SuChin Pak, and Ian Kesler this week and every week from 4-6pm, Tuesday through Friday on Oprah's Oxygen cable network.

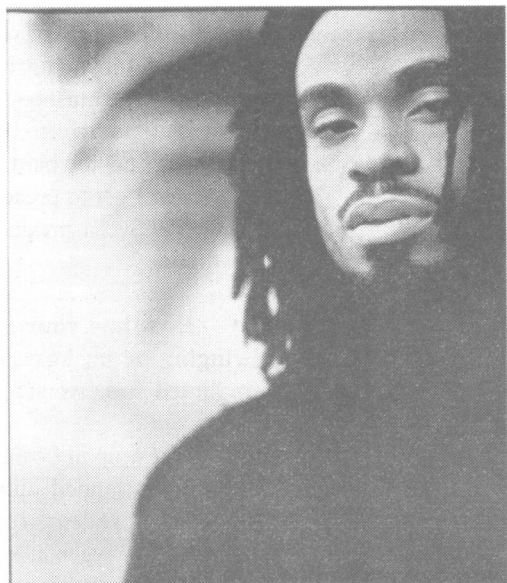
Revitalizing the Soul

Shelby R. Larkin
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 22, neo-soul artist Bilal showcased his extraordinary talent with a private performance here in Atlanta. The expo, hosted by Martell Cognac, took place at Club 1789, the downstairs venue of The Deux Plex on Cheshire Bridge Road.

The Philadelphia-based singer's music is a revival of the classic jazz and soul sound that first emerged during the Harlem Renaissance. Bilal's performance featured the accompaniment of a live band, which added even more vitality to the music. The crowd was lured into the majestic atmosphere as Bilal captivated listeners with his sweet, sensual lyrics. Though small in stature, Bilal's powerful voice possesses an octave range that would put even Mariah Carey to shame.

Also in attendance was newly signed Motown recording artist, India Arie. Her single, "Video", is the first release from Irie's debut album, *Acoustic Soul*,



Sensuous Bilal amazes the crowds Club 1789, which hit stores on March 27.

Bilal began wooing fans with his hit track, "Soul Sista," from the *Love & Basketball* movie soundtrack. You can also check out this sultry singer sporting the latest trends, along with his talented homie, Musiq in the latest issue of *Vibe Magazine*.

As we move into the 21st century, rap music is expected to take a back seat to the strong comeback of R&B. Bilal is one of the incredible talents poised to lead this comeback. His debut album is scheduled to drop during the first week in April, so make sure you check it out!

Kandi shows sweetness

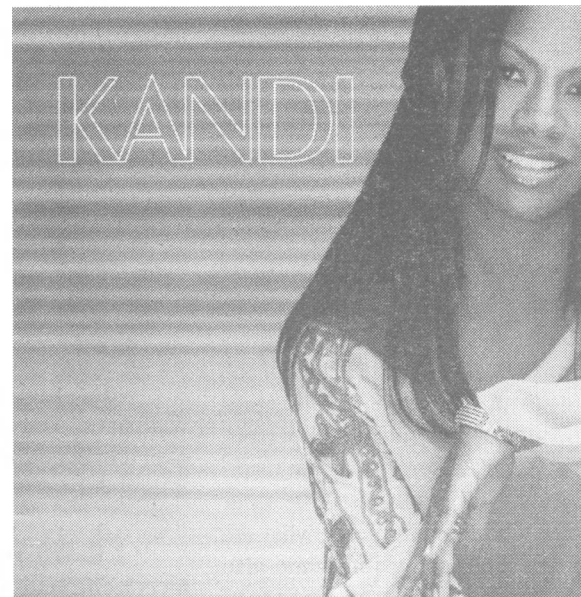
Rashida R. Rawls
EME

Have you ever wondered who the mastermind behind the lyrics of songs like TLC's "No Scrubs" or Destiny's Child's "Bills, Bills, Bills" was?

Former Escape member, Kandi Burruss would gladly take credit for the honor. Kandi is the first female to receive the ASCAP Rhythm & Soul Music Award for Songwriter of the Year. Kandi realizes that she has, "gone from writing songs that usually no one heard but me, to writing for some of my favorite artists."

Kandi hit the music scene as a solo artist with her debut album *Hey Kandi* in 2000. Kandi says, "I've gone from being in a group to being a solo artist, which is scary." Her album is filled with hip trendy tunes that will keep the body boogying all night! This is definitely not your select album for slow jams. It's more of a pop album than R&B due to its traces of sounds similar to Kelis and Destiny's Child.

The first single released off



The cover of Kandi's new self-titled album.

the album entitled "Don't Think I'm Not", is a reply to those cheatin' brothers who think they're getting over on their women. Remember guys: women can creep like men can.

"Talking 'Bout Me" is a hot tune with madd Cali-style flavor. It reminds me of something that would be on Dr. Dre or Snoop's album-Representin' that West Side!

This album is loaded with a host of other hot jams. It is an absolute must have for all of those trendy house parties. So when you feel the need to boogie and dance the night away-don't forget to invite that flavor we call Kandi!

The Go-Go experience has deeper meaning

Alexandra J. Hoston
Contributing Writer

Go-Go: you either love it or hate it. When the DJ strikes up those old classics, such as "Waterdance" and "Overnight Scenario," you might think that a huge ground-dividing earthquake has overtaken the room creating a giant chasm between the groups of dancers. The Go-Go haters stop dancing in mid-booty-grind and stand up with arms folded across their chests, annoyed and looking lost as if the whole world just changed. The Go-Go lovers squeal and holler and run up to the front, creating a scene reminiscent of the Black Hole (a classic Go-Go spot in the heart of the Washington, D.C. area), and quickly bust into freaky moves, the likes of which you've never before seen. A burst of testosterone ripples through the guys clad in hoodies, glittery shirts, and baseball caps. The hysteric ones jump around in Pastor Troy's "we ready" style.

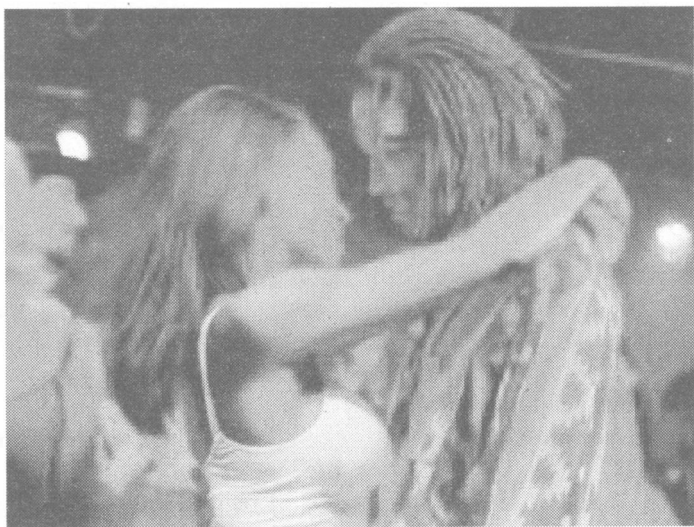
Most people just don't understand why the clickety-clack of the congas is so celebrated. It's a form of music that is played by a live band, complete with a lead rapper, singer, congas, a bass drum, cowbells and a keyboard. Chuck Brown, the grandfather of Go-Go, established the genre as an integral part of D.C.'s culture several decades ago with the popular hit "Go-Go swing." Targeted to teenagers ranging from

15 and up, the Go-Go experience is a preview into what exciting adventures adulthood has in store. As a young girl, I remember dancing on the playground singing and doing the latest dance to the Rare Essence classic "Work the Walls."

As a sophomore in high school, I looked up to the seniors who always came to cheerleading practice on Monday with exciting stories about "the Go-Go" the

respective hoods.

I remember one story in particular, during which my older comrades had a thrilling experience. Somehow, amidst all the fun and excitement a fight broke out and everyone began to clear the room. The police began shooting outside and causing everyone to drop down, ducking bullets. In a scene reminiscent of Puff and Jennifer's New York night club fiasco, the group sped



Go Go music has become increasingly popular in the nightclub scene.

night before. "The Go-Go" can often turn into a violent affair, so special precautions must be taken. No weapons of any kind are allowed, i.e. combs, nail files, pens, etc. Once inside, everyone gets their freak on in a major way, sweating as if a sauna had been turned on, "representin'" for their

off at maximum speed in a quick effort to exit the premises. Ironically, they were pulled over and given a nice, fat speeding ticket by the same police who had caused their speedy departure. As any young impressionable youth would be, I was very impressed by this story.

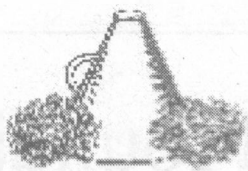


Although Go Go music is nationwide, its home is Washington D.C.

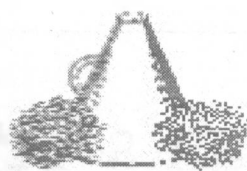
"The Go-Go" is a pathway for young Black teens to have a life before the age of 18. It is not until you reach legal partying age and go off to college or move away from the DC metropolitan area, that you truly appreciate the familiarity of the clickety-clak from the Junkyard Band, Backyard Band, Rare Essence, and the Northeast Groovers.

This past Christmas on 95.5FM, a Washington, D.C. radio station, the number two Christmas song of all time was a Go-Go rendition of "Santa Claus is Coming to Town." You see,

Go-Go is not just a form of music. It's a culture, a way of life. If you are from the D.C. metropolitan area, you've been raised knowing, understanding, and appreciating Go-Go ever since you were very young. It is not purely the music that I enjoy, but the experiences that I remember as well. And no matter what, I've always got to represent. I have a dream that one day we can all dance to Go-Go together, with the same vigor and energy we exhibit when the DJ plays old school hits like "Doin' the Butt."



They Got That Spirit!



Tandra Turner Sports Writer

There is an interesting noise in Read Hall Gymnasium. No, it is not the Tiger Rumble. It is the Spelman College Cheerleading Squad. Unknown to most of the student body, Spelman has a cheerleading team, which has existed since 1993. This year's squad consists of one junior and eight freshmen.

These committed young ladies work hard to support Spelman athletics. Two to three days a week, they attend practice as early as 6:00 A.M. in the morning or as late as 5:00 P.M. in the evenings. At the basketball games, they relentlessly motivate the basketball team and pump up the crowds. Off campus, the squad also serves as representatives for the school. Recently some members from the team received the honor of participating in the Georgia Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Spelman College was one of four college teams invited and the only all-black squad. The young ladies met and escorted



Spelman's Mascot, the Jaguar, helps the cheerleaders pump up the crowd!

inductees such as boxing great Evander Holyfield and basketball star Teresa Edwards.

While they are fired-up for their school, most of these cheerleaders are handling their intense

workload. Alexis Joye, a freshman squad member from Columbia, South Carolina, majors in Chemistry and has seventeen credit hours this semester. With involvement in other organizations and

cheerleading, she understands the importance of time management. "I literally have every hour of my day scheduled. If I am not in class then I am at practice. If I am not at practice then I am taking care of my schoolwork," said Alexis. Alexis is not overwhelmed by her schedule. Cheering since high school, she is used to balancing academics and cheerleading. Most of the benefits of being a Spelman cheerleader are intrinsic. Freshman squad member Krystal McKellery enjoys cheering because she loves the not only the sport but also showing pride for her school.

When asked about Spelman's school spirit, the squad admits that it is lacking. They mention that Morehouse men support Spelman athletics more than Spelman students do. Dr. Dorothy Richey, athletic director for the college, believes school spirit should be about "women supporting women." She states that as a college community, "we need to show that women are brilliant and also athletic." To increase interest in the cheerleading squad, cheerleading coach Doris Terrell

has submitted a proposal to the Academic Dean. The pending proposal requests that cheerleaders receive Physical Education credit for their participation. In addition, Coach Terrell would like to see the young ladies attend road games and competitions.

So what do Spelman students have to do to join in on the spirit? Those who have cheering experience or just want to show support for their school need to attend tryouts for the 2001-2002 season. The college holds tryouts in the fall.



Spring Sports Report

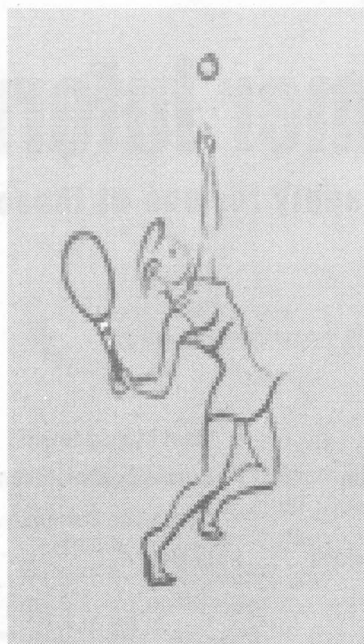
Stevie Stribling Contributing Writer

Spring sports are well underway. Lady Jaguar spirit is alive on three teams that have the potential to shine brightly to the end of the 2000-2001 school year.

The golf team, coached by Willie Burkes, is scheduled for seven matches. There are seven participants on the team preparing for a winning season. They are: Cynthia Brown, Valeda Bussey, Katrena Hudson, Alethea Rouse, Loren Wheeler, Kimberly Hudson, and Nytosha Thomas. This season the golf team will compete against Johnson C. Smith College, Benedict College, Calvin College, and Alabama A&M University. The team will also compete in the Women's Collegiate Championship and the National Minority College Tournament. Coaches Willie and Bobbi Burkes are looking for the ladies to be more competitive and take their mates head on.

The tennis team is going strong with a 2-5 record. With nine matches to go the team of Ekua Assabill, Victoria Beatty, Veronica Chapman, Kara Dobbins, Allegra Renee Morrow, Ashley Gaillard, Rashida Rawls, Jamelah Kates, April Whitehead, Toni Scott, Karla Shade, and Olivia Smith are sure to conquer the competition. Coach Willie Shaw predicts that the team

will be above .500 by the end of the season. "I have great expectations. This is a new team, I only have two returners from last year [Gaillard and Shade] and there are no seniors, so we have time to work, function and grow together," said Shaw. Coach Shaw suggests that once the team solidifies playing positions, they will be unstoppable. Toni Scott (5-2) has indeed made her mark on the



court. This all-star and her doubles partner, Kara Dobbins, have only lost one match, and they continue to dominate the court as partners. What the team lacks in experience, they make up for in spirit and ability. Look for these

Jaguar champions in the limelight.

With their first meet at Morehouse College on Saturday March 17, 2001 and their first major meet at the Alabama Relays, March 24-25, against NCAA Division I competitors, the Lady Jaguars Track and Field team have been training hard. Indoor track members Tanisha Green, Sarah St. Louis, Niya Williams, and Te'iva Johnson will join Fatima Gaskin, Monique Forrest, Candice Bledsoe (injured during indoor track), and Sherita Holt (injured during basketball season) to complete the outdoor track team. According to Coach Kevin Foster, the indoor team has already had seven competitions, and finished with an impressive fourth place at the University of Georgia South. Track sensation Tanisha Green won both the 200 and 400 and ran lead for the 4x1 lap relay. Sarah St. Louis placed 3rd in the 200 and also ran in the 4x1 relay along with Te'iva Johnson. "The Jaguars will definitely make their mark on the track," said Coach Foster. The team is currently preparing for the outdoor track and field season. The team competes against a majority of NCAA Division I & II scholarship teams.

Come out and support your Spelman Sisters as they prove themselves at the tee, on the court, and on the field.

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GREYHOUND

Spelman's Tennis Team establishes a solid foundation

**Rashida R. Rawls
EME**

Many Spelmanites have said, "I didn't know we had a tennis team!" This remark shows how much athleticism is not respected at Spelman and how information about sports events is not communicated to the Spelman community. Sports teams at Spelman have suffered from a lack of funding, been overlooked by Morehouse sports teams, and have been under-supported by both the administration and our fellow sisters.

The Spelman Tennis Team is trying to build a strong foundation of dedicated, competitive, and athletic women, despite the issues of commitment and consistency it has had in the past. Members of the initial 2001 team were shunned by the men's team at Morehouse due to the reputation of past teams.

Sophomore Toni Scott recalls her initial encounter with the men's team. "The first day the guys were open and warm, but after that, they stopped interacting with us. The guys neglected to talk or hit with us. But on our first road trip we discussed our differences [and]

found out that their neglect was an attempt to measure our persistence and commitment to the team. Since then we have unified and maintained a support system for one another."

The tennis team is unique due to its cohesiveness, both academically and athletically. Sophomore Veronica Chapman said, "I think we have some of the most brilliant women on the team who are not only aggressive athletically but also intellectually. I am glad to share the court and the same college with them. Joining the team has been the most enjoyable experience that I've had at Spelman, and I look forward to going to practice everyday!"

Ashley Gaillard, a sopho-

more and veteran to the team, believes that this year's team gives

agreed saying, "We have a lot to improve on because we are such a young team. However, we still need adequate funding and support for the team so we can get the necessary equipment and uniforms to represent Spelman properly."

The team likes to refer to themselves as the Spelman / Morehouse Tennis Team because they not only share a coach, but they also act as a cohesive unit—constantly supporting each other. When

asked what they thought about this year's team, the Morehouse players and coaches were encouraging in their remarks.

Sophomore Richard Makerson, III said, "They have a lot of heart and determination. I really appreciate the way the ladies give the team 110 percent on and off the court."

Assistant coach Terry Alexander said that the team "has plenty of potential to be very successful in the future," and that "hopefully, Spelman will put more money into the program to help it to grow."

Senior Damien Hughes enthusiastically stated, "This has to be the most talented team I've seen since I've been at Morehouse. They put forth a lot of effort, and with more support from their college, they'd be on point."

Freshwoman Victoria Beatty said it best when she remarked, "When I first came on this team, it amazed me how nice and supportive the teammates were; however, we continue to lose. The reason for our failure is due to the lack of support from our Spelman sisters. Given the time, patience, and love that is present, this team will succeed with or without outside help. Next year, the Spelman tennis team WILL be a success mentally, emotionally, and most importantly, physically."

*Editor's note: Congratulations to the Spelman Tennis Team for placing 2nd in the AUC Jambo-ree. Keep up the good work ladies!



The Spelman Tennis Team is all smiles on the road to the Xavier Tournament. *Not pictured: Ashley Gaillard and Karla Shade.

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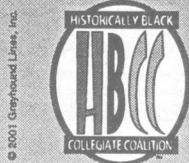
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Dear Dr. Manley: One Student's Public Safety Experience

This is a letter to Dr. Manley about an issue that took place in the faculty parking lot near the Fine Arts and Cosby buildings.

On Friday, Feb. 16, 2001 at about 12:15 p.m. in the faculty parking lot, my car would not start because the battery needed to be replaced. Wishing my dad (Professor Bruce Wade) was in town and at work, I went to a public safety vehicle that was not too far from my own car. One officer was sitting in the driver's seat and another was standing outside of the car, talking. I asked if they could give me a jump. The female officer rudely replied, "No, I can't." I asked her why. The other then responded, "If your car were to blow up on account of me giving you a jump, then you would blame Spelman and take us to court." I understood what she was saying. It was good reason to decline such requests. However, the officer's whole mood and tone were very rude. She did not seem the least bit concerned at all. The male officer agreed with what the female officer said and asked me to go into the public safety office. They went on talking and joking with each other.

Unsuccessful with the public safety officer, I then approach a woman, whom I assumed to be a faculty member, sitting in her car reading. I asked the woman to give me a jump. She threw excuses at me. First she told me that she couldn't because her car was a rental. I thought to myself, "What does that have to do with anything?" Then she said that she didn't have any cables, which I had in my car and I told her that. Then she went on to say that she didn't know how to hook them up, of which I have knowledge. Lastly, she said that she did not even know how to pop the hood. "Why don't you go to the public safety office," the woman urged. So, after hearing her discouraging excuses, I left. I thought to myself, "This is going nowhere. The officers already said no." Once again, there was no display of concern, which I thought would be different because she was a teacher and looked old enough to have children, or at least nieces and nephews, who might be my age. I assumed the thought of her own children or relatives would make her concerned. I was wrong.

After this disappointment I went to another car. I asked the woman if she could give me a jump. She replied, "No, I am in a hurry. I don't have any cables anyway." After saying this, she sped off in her little red Corvette. Next, I went to the public safety office where I hoped to get some assistance. The woman in the office told me the same thing as the other officers had said. I tried three more failing attempts, all teachers, before going to ask my professor, Dr. T. Neely-Chandler in the music department. She was very understanding. The jump took less than one minute, and I was very grateful. I did not understand why everyone was so mean. No one was willing to help.

This is not the only instance that the public safety office has not been of assistance to me. I can recall last Spring semester when I locked my keys in my car and public safety was very nonchalant about the situation. The incident took place in front of the Spelman gate. When I was calling Pop-A-Lock to unlock my car, the public safety officer only seemed concerned about my moving the car. I had already twice told him that I could not move my car because I was locked out. To this he responded, "You need to move your car as soon as you get the door opened or it will be towed." In this case, my father had a spare key in his car, and I did not have to wait to get my door open. I did not address my concern then, because I thought, "perhaps the public safety officer was having a bad day."

I was very discomforted by the lack of concern and help that the public safety officers and faculty displayed. After all this happened, I thought to myself, "What is the purpose of public safety if they can not even give a car a jump?" Of course, my case was not a life or death situation. However, public safety is paid to be of service to the students, or at least direct the students to a place they can get help. What if it had been dark outside? Would their response be different? I know that Spelman prides itself on creating a friendly, sisterhood environment, but that day I felt like an outsider. Several cars from the faculty parking lot passed me, seeing that my hood was up, and not once did anyone stop to ask if I was okay.

Dr. Manley, I am not asking for an apology or sympathy. I just wanted to inform you that the public safety officers were not of any help to me in these two instances. If it has happened to me, I am sure it has happened to others as well. I find it very ironic that we are supposed to learn the public safety number during our first days on Spelman's campus. But what good is knowing the number if it is not going to be of any assistance?

Sahirah Wade
Class of 2003

Are we Really Free?

Anthonika Miles
OpEd Writer

According to the 13TH Amendment of the Unites States Constitution, the supreme law of the land, we are "free." Personally, however, I do not believe that African Americans are mentally, physically, spiritually, and psychologically free. The reason is simple. We are continuously watched by society and have to work twice as hard to prove ourselves to in order to live a life of luxury. We cannot even drive down the street without being pulled over for tedious reasons.

I can attest to being watched by society. During the Christmas break, some of my friends and I had a hotel room just to kick it and relax from a hard semester. We decided to invite some of our male friends to the room just to chill. However, upon our arrival at the hotel, all of our male friends were stopped and questioned at the door because they were carrying bags in their hands. The managing staff politely asked my friends to leave simply because they looked mysterious, or is it to safe to say, "because they were black."

The managing staff at the hotel also called the police and asked them to come to the hotel because they claimed that we were disturbing the other guests. The

cops searched our room based upon a noise complaint made by the manager. Yet, we stayed in the hotel the previous night and there were no warnings or complaints from the guests or the hotel staff. Basically, the manager used the noise complaint as an excuse to



make us leave the hotel. As a result, we were forced to pack up all of our belongings and leave the hotel in the middle of the night. I felt dehumanized and violated as a human being. So, if you ask me if I am free, my answer is "HELL NO!"

Think about the numerous times you or your friends have been watched by crowds, mumbled about, pulled over by the cops for no apparent reason, verbally disrespected, or called out of

your names. My friend was pulled over in the AUC area just a few weeks ago because she was driving a rental car, or is it safe to say, again, "because she was black?" How stupid does that sound?

Society continues to prove to me that we, as African Americans, are not completely free. As long as blacks are victims of lynchings, segregated neighborhoods, Klu Klux Klan parades, racial profiling, and African American student's votes are not counted in the presidential election, I will never believe we are completely free.

How can I say that we are truly emancipated from a world that brutally scars my brothers and disarms my sisters? If you think you are free because you fulfilled the American dream of going to college, getting a college degree, working a 9-5 job, making six figures, driving a Lexus or a Mercedes Benz, and living in the perfect house with two perfect kids and a perfect wife, then you are sadly mistaken.

Freedom is a state of mind that requires eternal peace with yourself and your enemy. We may not be able to change what America thinks of us but we can change what we think of ourselves. It is time for us to join together as black people and fight this battle together. One man cannot do it alone.

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Beyond the Oval

As the *Spelman Spotlight* takes you beyond the oval of academic enrichment, we invite you to celebrate all of the extracurricular activities that take place on campus. These are the activities that make college memorable and cement the college experience into something unimaginable. We conclude this issue by featuring two of the main events that took place on campus the weekend of March 23rd, which were the Miss Spelman Pageant 2001, and the arrival of the new members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, "Sweet" Mu Pi Chapter.

